

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1            1-30. (Canceled)

1           31.     (New) A program storage device readable by a computer, the program  
2     storage device tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by  
3     the computer to perform a method for providing a two-step communication scheme, the  
4     method comprising:

5                 establishing a portion of memory configured to provide asynchronous,  
6     connectionless inter-process communication between a first process and a second  
7     processes;

8                 granting exclusive access to a first process to the portion of memory configured to  
9     provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process communication between the first  
10    process and the second process;

11                while having been granted to the exclusive access to the portion of memory  
12    configured to provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process communication,  
13    accessing the portion of memory configured to provide asynchronous, connectionless  
14    inter-process communication by the first process to modify the contents thereof to  
15    provide a message for processing by the second process; and

16                releasing exclusive access by the first process to the portion of memory  
17    configured to provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process communication to  
18    prevent inter-process communication between the first and second process from  
19    becoming a performance bottleneck by releasing resources of the first process after the  
20    first process modifies the contents of the portion of memory.

1           32.     (New) The program storage device of claim 31 further comprising  
2     configuring the memory to provide header having an operation code and a parameter  
3     region interpreted according to the operation code.

1           33.     (New) The program storage device of claim 31, wherein the providing the  
2     message into the portion of memory by the first process further comprises initiating a  
3     remote procedure call.

1           34.     (New) The program storage device of claim 31 further comprising  
2     granting exclusive access to the second process to the portion of memory configured to  
3     provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process communication, while having been  
4     granted to the exclusive access to the portion of memory, accessing the portion of  
5     memory by the second process to modify the contents thereof to access the message  
6     provided in the portion of memory by the first process and releasing exclusive access by  
7     the second process to the portion of memory.

1           35.     (New) The program storage device of claim 34 further comprising:  
2             establishing exclusive access to the portion of memory by the second process;  
3             accessing the portion of memory by the second process to provide a result  
4     message in response to the message placed in the portion of memory by the first process;  
5     and  
6             providing by the second process a notification to the first process to check the  
7     portion of memory.

1           36.   (New) The program storage device of claim 31 further comprising  
2   providing by the first process a notification to the second process to check the portion of  
3   memory.

1           37.   (New) A server comprising a memory, wherein a portion of the memory  
2   is configured to provide two-step, asynchronous, connectionless inter-process  
3   communication between a first process and a second process, the portion of memory  
4   being configured as memory accessible by the first and second processes, wherein access  
5   to the portion of memory being granted exclusively to the first process for modification  
6   of contents of the portion of memory to prevent inter-process communication between the  
7   first and second process from becoming a performance bottleneck by releasing resources  
8   of the first process after the first process modifies the contents of the portion of memory.

1           38.   (New) The server of claim 37, wherein the portion of memory comprises  
2   a slot having a header comprising an operation code and a parameter region interpreted  
3   according to the operation code.

1           39.   (New) The server of claim 37, wherein the placing message into the  
2   portion of memory by the first process further comprises initiating a remote procedure  
3   call.

1           40.   (New) The server of claim 37, wherein the second process is granted  
2   exclusive access to the portion of memory configured to provide asynchronous,  
3   connectionless inter-process communication, accesses the portion of memory to modify  
4   the contents thereof to access the message provided in the portion of memory by the first  
5   process and releases exclusive access by the second process to the portion of memory.

1           41.   (New) The server of claim 40, wherein the second process is granted  
2   exclusive access to the portion of memory, accesses the portion of memory to provide a  
3   result message in response to the message placed in the portion of memory by the first  
4   process and provides a notification to the first process to check the portion of memory.

1           42.   (New) The server of claim 37, wherein the first process provides a  
2   notification to the second process to check the portion of memory.

1           43.   (New) A system, comprising:  
2           a first process;  
3           a second process; and  
4           memory configured to provide asynchronous, interprocess communication  
5 between the first process and the second process, wherein the memory provides a portion  
6 of memory configured to be accessible by the first and second processes, wherein access  
7 to the portion of memory is granted exclusively to the first process for modification of  
8 contents of the portion of memory to prevent inter-process communication between the  
9 first and second process from becoming a performance bottleneck by releasing resources  
10 of the first process after the first process modifies the contents of the portion of memory.

1           44   (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the portion of memory comprises  
2 a slot having a header comprising an operation code and a parameter region interpreted  
3 according to the operation code.

1           45.   (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the placing message into the  
2 portion of memory by the first process further comprises initiating a remote procedure  
3 call.

1           46.   (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the second process is granted  
2   exclusive access to the portion of memory configured to provide asynchronous,  
3   connectionless inter-process communication, accesses the portion of memory to modify  
4   the contents thereof to access the message provided in the portion of memory by the first  
5   process and releases exclusive access by the second process to the portion of memory.

1           47.   (New) The system of claim 46, wherein the second process is granted  
2   exclusive access to the portion of memory, accesses the portion of memory to provide a  
3   result message in response to the message placed in the portion of memory by the first  
4   process and provides a notification to the first process to check the portion of memory.

1           48.   (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the first process provides a  
2   notification to the second process to check the portion of memory.

1           49.     (New) A service level agreement (SLA) server, comprising:  
2           a plurality of processes, the plurality of processes comprising a database manager  
3     for managing performance data, an application server for collecting performance data and  
4     providing a client interface for establishing service level agreements, a SLA core for  
5     analyzing data and controlling actions based on service level agreements and policy and a  
6     performance monitor daemon for communicating with remote I/O service gateways to  
7     collect data and send throttling requests; and  
8           memory configured to provide asynchronous, interprocess communication  
9     between the processes, wherein the memory provides a portion of memory configured to  
10    be accessible by the processes, wherein access to the portion of memory is granted  
11    exclusively to a first of the processes for modification of contents of the portion of  
12    memory to prevent inter-process communication between the process from becoming a  
13    performance bottleneck by releasing resources of the first of the processes after the first  
14    of the processes modifies the contents of the portion of memory.



1           50.     (New) A service level agreement (SLA) server, comprising:  
2           a processor configured for providing a plurality of processes; and  
3           memory configured to provide asynchronous, interprocess communication  
4     between the first process and the second process, wherein the memory provides a portion  
5     of memory configured to be accessible by the first and second processes,  
6           wherein the processor grants exclusive access to the portion of memory by the  
7     first process for modification of contents of the portion of memory to prevent inter-  
8     process communication between the first and second process from becoming a  
9     performance bottleneck by releasing resources of the first process after the first process  
10    modifies the contents of the portion of memory.

1           51.     (New) A method for providing a two-step communication scheme,  
2     comprising:  
3           establishing a portion of memory configured to provide asynchronous,  
4     connectionless inter-process communication between a first process and a second  
5     processes;  
6           granting exclusive access to a first process to the portion of memory configured to  
7     provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process communication between the first  
8     process and the second process;  
9     while having been granted to the exclusive access to the portion of memory configured to  
10    provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process communication, accessing the  
11    portion of memory configured to provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process  
12    communication by the first process to modify the contents thereof to provide a message  
13    for processing by the second process; and  
14           releasing exclusive access by the first process to the portion of memory  
15    configured to provide asynchronous, connectionless inter-process communication to  
16    prevent inter-process communication between the first and second process from  
17    becoming a performance bottleneck by releasing resources of the first process after the  
18    first process modifies the contents of the portion of memory.

1           52.     (New) A server comprising a means for storing data, wherein a portion of  
2     the means for storing data is configured to provide two-step, asynchronous,  
3     connectionless inter-process communication between a first process and a second  
4     process, the portion of the means for storing data is configured to be accessible by the  
5     first and second processes, wherein access to the portion of the means for storing data is  
6     granted exclusively to the first process for modification of contents of the portion of the  
7     means for storing data to prevent inter-process communication between the first and  
8     second process from becoming a performance bottleneck by releasing resources of the  
9     first process after the first process modifies the contents of the portion of the means for  
10    storing data.

1           53.     (New) A system, comprising:  
2           first process means;  
3           second process means;  
4           means for storing data configured to provide asynchronous, interprocess  
5     communication between the first process means and the second process means, wherein  
6     the means for storing data is configured to be accessible by the first and second process  
7     means, wherein access to the portion of the means for storing data is granted exclusively  
8     to the first process means for modification of contents of the portion of the means for  
9     storing data to prevent inter-process communication between the first and second process  
10    means from becoming a performance bottleneck by releasing resources of the first  
11    process means after the first process means modifies the contents of the portion of the  
12    means for storing data.

1           54.     (New) A service level agreement (SLA) server, comprising:  
2           a plurality of process means, the plurality of processes comprising process means  
3     for managing performance data, process means for collecting performance data and  
4     providing a client interface for establishing service level agreements, process means for  
5     analyzing data and controlling actions based on service level agreements and policy and  
6     process means for communicating with remote I/O service gateways to collect data and  
7     send throttling requests; and  
8           means for storing data configured to provide asynchronous, interprocess  
9     communication between the plurality of process mans, wherein the means for storing data  
10    is accessible by the plurality of process means, wherein access to the means for storing  
11    data is granted exclusively to a first of the process means for modification of contents of  
12    the means for storing data to prevent inter-process communication between the plurality  
13    of process means from becoming a performance bottleneck by releasing resources of the  
14    first of the process means after the first of the process means modifies the contents of the  
15    portion of means for storing data.